ARCH 350
HOUSTON: Examine | Explore | Explicate

Instructor:
Stephen Fox

Join Zoom Meeting

Meeting ID:
Passcode:

Course Description:
Based on the intensity and immensity of its climate, size, scale, and infrastructure, Houston is daunting. This seminar reacts to the challenge Houston poses by examining its architectural landscapes; exploring intersections of the natural, the cultural, and the engineered; and explicating—critically analyzing—the ways urbanity and suburbanity are constructed, de-constructed, and re-constructed in Houston.

The goal of this seminar is to encourage you to excavate the historical layers of the places where you live and work. It uses Houston and its architecture as a test case to extrapolate interpretations from the cultures embedded in buildings and sites so that you can begin to externalize these cultural layers and make them accessible.

Course Format:
The course consists of twelve 2-1/2-hour sessions. The *architectural tour* will be the medium for developing your awareness of diverse sites in Houston. Two-thirds of the sessions will be tours of specific sectors of Houston. A third of the sessions will consist of classroom reflections on, and discussions about, your perceptions of the sites visited. Readings will supplement your awareness of how others have looked at, learned from, and interpreted Houston's cultural landscapes.

Learning Objectives:
1. Develop a working knowledge of Houston based on visits to sites and sectors.
2. Discover and use the archives where documentation of Houston's histories are deposited.
3. Synthesize your observational perceptions and documentary research to formulate interpretations of Houston's architecture and urbanism.
4. Author a research paper structured as a tour that explicates some facet of Houston architecture or urbanism. Make a presentation to the class of your research.

Grading policy for Arch 350:
Grading criteria: Fifty percent of the grade is determined by performance on the semester research paper and presentation, twenty-five percent on attendance, and twenty-five percent on class participation.

Absence policy:
Per Rice's Honor Code, all students are expected to attend all classes for the full class session.

Expectations regarding course work and Honor Code:
It is not acceptable to reproduce other authors' texts from websites, books, or articles. Use of external sources is permissible when properly credited. All class work is covered by the Rice Honor Code.

Students with a disability requiring accommodation are encouraged to contact the instructor as well as Disability Support services in Allen Center 111: http://dss.rice.edu/

Title IX Responsible Employee Notification
At Rice University, unlawful discrimination in any form, including sexual misconduct, is prohibited under Rice Policy on Harassment and Sexual Harassment (Policy 830) and the Student Code of Conduct.

All employees of Rice University are "mandatory reporters," which means that if you tell me about a situation involving discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking, I must share that information with someone, including the University's Title IX Coordinator (titleix@rice.edu). Although I have to make that notification, you will control how your case will be handled, including whether or not you wish to pursue a formal complaint. Our goal is to make sure you are aware of the range of options available to you and have access to the resources you need.

To explore supportive measures and other resources that are available to you, please visit the Office if Interpersonal Misconduct Prevention and Support at https://safe.rice.edu.

Rice University COVID policies: https://coronavirus.rice.edu/policies

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12 Jan—Introduction, lecture, and discussion

19 Jan—Lecture and discussion

26 Jan—Tour: Rice University

2 Feb—Tour: Downtown Houston

9 Feb—Spring Recess (no class)

16 Feb—Tour: Texas Medical Center

23 Feb—Class discussion

2 Mar—Tour: Hermann Park, Museum of Fine Arts, Broadacres

9 Mar—Tour: Project Row Houses and Sam Houston Park

16 Mar—Spring Break (no class)

23 Mar—Class discussion

30 Mar—Tour: University of St. Thomas, Rothko Chapel, Menil Collection

6 April—Tour--

13 April—Students' presentations of Houston tours

21 April (Jury Week)

Recommended Readings

Art and Activism: Projects of John and Dominique de Menil, ed. Josef Helfenstein and Laureen Schipsi, Houston: The Menil Collection, 2010.

Joel Warren Barna, *The See-Through Years: Creation and Destruction in Texas Real Estate, 1981-1991*, Houston: Rice University Press, 1992.

Steven M. Baron, *Houston Electric: The Street Railways of Houston, Texas*, Lexington: privately published, 1996.

Black Dixie: Afro-Texan History and Culture in Houston, ed. Howard Beeth and Cary D. Wintz, College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1992.

Barrie Scardino Bradley, *Improbable Houston: Houston's Architectural and Urban History*, Austin: University of Texas Press, 2020.

Walter Buenger and Joseph Pratt. *But Also Good Business: Texas Commerce Bank and the Financing of Houston and Texas*, College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1986.

Robert D. Bullard, *Invisible in Houston: The Black Experience in Boom and Bust*, College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1987.

Gail Cooper, *Air-conditioning America: Engineers and the Controlled Environment, 1900-1960*, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998.

Joe R. Feagin, *Free Enterprise City: Houston in Political and Economic Perspective*, New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 1988.

Stephen Fox, *AIA Houston Architectural Guide*, Houston: American Institute of Architects, Houston Chapter and Minor Design, 2012.

James Gast, *The Astrodome: Building an American Spectacle*, Boston: Aspinwall Press, 2014.

Hines: A Legacy of Quality in the Built Environment, Bainbridge Island: Fenwick, 2007.

Dorothy Knox Howe Houghton, Sadie Gwin Blackburn, Barrie M. Scardino, and Katherine S. Howe, *Houston's Forgotten Heritage: Landscape, Houses, Interiors, 1824-1914*, Houston: Rice University Press, 1991.

Houston: A Twentieth-Century Urban Frontier, ed. by Francisco A. Rosales and Barry J. Kaplan, Port Washington: Associated Faculty Press, 1983.

Stephen James, "The Menil Connection: Louis Kahn and the Rice University Art Center," *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* 69 (December 2010): 44-66. https://online.ucpress.edu/jsah/article/69/4/556/92170/The-Menil-Connection-Louis-Kahn-and-the-Rice

Ben Koush, *Constructing Houston's Future: The Architecture of Arthur Evans Jones and Lloyd Morgan Jones*, Houston: Houston Mod, 2017.

Lars Lerup, *One Million Acres and No Zoning*, London: Architectural Association Press, 2011.

Kenneth Lipartito and Joseph Pratt. *Baker & Botts in the Development of Modern Houston*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1991.

David G. McComb, *Houston, A History*, Austin: University of Texas Press, 1981.

Martin V. Melosi and Joseph A. Pratt, eds., *Energy Metropolis: An Environmental History of Houston and the Gulf Coast*, Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2007.

William Middleton, *Double Vision: The Unerring Eye of Art World Avatars Dominique and John de Menil*, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2018.

Kathryn E. O'Rourke, "Houston Is Almost Alright: Postmodernism on the Texas Gulf Coast," *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, 79 (September 2020): 308-330.
https://online.ucpress.edu/jsah/article/79/3/308/111813/Houston-Is-Almost-All-Right-Postmodernism-on-the

Peter C. Papademetriou, *Transportation and Urban Development in Houston, 1830-1980*, Houston: Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County, 1980.

Harold L. Platt, *City Building in the New South: The Growth of Public Services in Houston, Texas, 1830-1915*, Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1983.

Joseph A. Pratt, *The Growth of a Refining Region*, Greenwich: JAI Press, 1980.

Bernadette Pruitt, *The Other Great Migration: The Movement of Rural African Americans to Houston, Texas, 1900-1941*, College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2013.

Francisco A. Rosales and Barry J. Kaplan, eds., *Houston: A Twentieth-Century Urban Frontier*, Port Washington: Associated Faculty Press, 1983.

Michelangelo Sabatino, "Heat and Light Thematised in the Modern Architecture of Houston," *Journal of Architecture* 16 (October 2011): 703-726.

Barrie Scardino, William F. Stern, and Bruce C. Webb, editors, *Ephemeral City: Cite Looks at Houston*, Austin: University of Texas Press, 2003.

Kyle Shelton, *Power Moves: Transportation, Politics, and Development in Houston*, Austin: University of Texas Press, 2017.

Bernard H. Siegan, *Land Use Without Zoning*, Lexington: Lexington Books, D. C. Heath & Co., 1972.

Erik Slotboom. *Houston Freeways*. Austin: privately printed, 2003.

Tyina L. Steptoe, *Houston Bound: Culture and Color In a Jim Crow City*, Berkeley: University of California Press, 2016.

Paolo Tombesi, "Capital Gains and Architectural Losses: The Transformative Journey of Caudill Rowlett Scott (1948-1994)," *Journal of Architecture* 11 (April 2006): 145-168.

Drexel Turner, editor, *Houston Architectural Survey*, Houston: Southwest Center for Urban Research, 1980-1981, six volumes.

Drexel Turner, *Open Plan: A History of the College of Architecture, University of Houston, 1945-1995*, Houston: University of Houston College of Architecture, 1995.

Frank D. Welch, *Philip Johnson and Texas*, Austin: University of Texas Press, 2000.

David Welling, *Cinema Houston: From Nickelodeon to Megaplex*, Austin: University of Texas Press, 2007.

Roger Wood and James Fraher, *Down in Houston: Bayou City Blues*, Austin: University of Texas Press, 2003.

Dan M. Worrall, *Pleasant Bend: Upper Buffalo Bayou and the San Felipe Trail in the Nineteenth Century*, Fulshear: Concertina Press, 2016.

Dan M. Worrall, *A Prehistory of Houston and Southeast Texas: Landscape and Culture*, Fulshear: Concertina Press, 2021.

Gwendolyn Wright, *Building the Dream: A Social History of Housing in America*, New York: Pantheon Books, 1981.

Gwendolyn Wright *USA: Modern Architectures in History*, London: Reaktion Books, 2008.

Writers Program of the Federal Works Projects Administration of the State of Texas, *Houston, A History and Guide*, Houston: Anson Jones Press, 1942.

Peter Jay Zweig, Matthew W. Johnson, and Jason Logan, *Houston Genetic City*, Barcelona: Actar Publishers, 2020.